President Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D.

- I attended my first ever Association of Public and Land-grant Universities meeting in Washington, D.C. I am not much of a conference person but I thought this one was exceptionally helpful to me. Some highlights:
  - Purdue University President Mitch Daniels, former Governor of Indiana and new President, commented on the slow pace of University decision making by telling the story of the turtle who had been mugged by some snails. The turtle told the police he didn’t know what happened because it all happened so fast!
  - One President presented on their new Cyber Security program and indicated that students were flocking to the course and major.
  - Two top government reporters discussed the federal budget stalemate and included comments like – “it is really worse than it looks”, it is a contest between the Democrats who want to raise taxes and the Republicans who want to cut entitlements, there “is no trust in the Congress”, and the failure to fund research and development will lead to an “innovation deficit”.
  - I visited with three of our ex NMSU Presidents – Jay Gogue, Mike Martin, and Waded Cruzado. All doing well. Jay is one of the highest salaried of all Presidents, having been paid $2.2 million last year! Mike misses being on campus as he is stationed in Denver and runs the system. Waded is a rock star in Montana.
  - Much talk about the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and comments about Pell Grants and the new President Obama University rating system. APLU is concerned about the future of Pell Grant funding and most disturbed about the inefficiency of the private for profit universities who get 30% of the Pell money, have 11% of the students, and have a 47% default rate. I was told that the private for profits are very strong politically in Washington. The Obama rating system may be good for NMSU as it will feature access, net tuition, and outcomes/value added as the factors in rating universities.
  - Mike Martin commented that the cost of higher education had not really gone up much but it has been the rapid escalation of student amenities that is driving cost to students.
  - USDA Secretary Vilsack pitched the need for all, including the Congress, to focus on rural America and conditions there, including a very high poverty rate. He is interested in creating more entrepreneurial opportunities in rural areas, where folks would rather live but have few job opportunities. He commented that 85% of what we consume in America is produced by less
than 300,000 farmers. He also said, and I agree, that “folks know more about a University’s football record than they do about the marvelous work done by the faculty and staff”.

- Bernadette Montoya and I did a break out session on Student Affairs/Strategic Planning. It was great fun. Bernadette, one of the moderators, closed our segment of the program by singing the chorus of the Gambler. APLU had never seen such a thing!

- Ricardo Rel, Vimal Chaitanya, and I had dinner with a very successful NMSU graduate – Kerry Weems. Kerry has both a business and philosophy degree from NMSU and once ran the largest agency in all of the Federal government – the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He is now in private business and doing well. He will be visiting NMSU soon to do some lectures and to discuss a gift to NMSU to recognize the 6-8 family members who are NMSU graduates.

- Ricardo, Vimal, and I visited all 5 of our Congressional delegates – Senators Udall, Heinrich, and Congressmen/Congresswoman Pearce, Lujan Grisham, and Lujan. We made a request of Congressman Pearce, an NMSU graduate and former President of ASNSMU, to give his papers to our NMSU library/archives.

- The high light of the trip was a breakfast with our D.C. Alumni Chapter. Our alums were all doing well and very high on the value of their education at NMSU. Many mentioned their favorite faculty members.

- I made presentations to the NMSU Pioneers and the New Mexico Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta. I am a member of both! I was a charter member of Gamma Sigma Delta and was reminded that I had not paid my dues in years!

**Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Dan Howard**

- Spent Sunday and Monday at the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities National Meeting. The most interesting session I attended took place on Sunday morning and focused on successful retention and graduation strategies. Georgia State University has dramatically increased its 6 year graduation rate by aggressive interventions that address academic distress signals of students and financial aid needs of students.

- On Monday met with Lewis-Burke and discussed how NMSU and Lewis-Burke can more effectively work together. The PSL Balloon contract renewal was also a topic of discussion.

- On Tuesday, met with community college presidents. Among the issues we discussed were: budget reviews, the lottery scholarship, Aid like a Paycheck, and dual enrollment.

- Met with Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Weed Science, a strong department with three key pest disciplines under one roof. However, the department has five fewer faculty members than in the past, a common refrain at NMSU and one that needs to be addressed.
• Met with Dean Morehead, Faculty Senate Chair Dennis Clason, Regents Professor Chris Burnham, and Deputy Provost Greg Fant to discuss revisions to NMSU's admission requirements. A draft document was agreed to that now needs to be discussed with various stakeholders.

• Discussed program reviews with Bobbie Derlin and Natalie Kellner. Currently, NMSU does not conduct regular program reviews, something that must be changed before our next major accreditation visit. They recommend annual program reviews rather than program reviews every 5 - 7 years.

• Met with CADRE. Among the issues we discussed were: incentivizing research, ICT fees, and IRB support.

• Pat Hynes and I met at her shop to discuss the Space Grant Program and how to better leverage the program to enhance research at NMSU.

Senior Vice President Administration and Finance, Angela Throneberry
Auxiliary Services
• The NMSU Golf Course welcomes Vernon Bane as the new Assistant Golf Professional. Vernon comes from the El Paso Country Club where he worked as the Head golf Professional.

• Construction on the new irrigation system for the NMSU Golf Course is scheduled to begin on December 2nd and should take 4 to 5 months for completion. This will have a very positive impact on the quality of our turf and customers will be treated to an even better experience at the NMSU Golf Course. During construction of the irrigation system, the golf course will remain open although there will be times when one or two holes will be impacted by the construction. When a hole is impacted by construction, there will be an alternate hole which players can utilize in finishing their rounds.

Information and Communication Technologies
• Interdepartmental cooperation between ICT and Art Department is good for NMSU students. The loss of Jacobs Hall to reconstruction has left ICT scrambling to find computer lab space at the Las Cruces campus. Jacobs Hall is the home of one of NMSU’s largest student computer labs. To replace at least some of the lab space that temporarily will be lost due to Jacobs Hall construction, the Department of Art has graciously offered the use of Williams Hall room 107C until Jacobs Hall can be rebuilt. For its part, ICT with the support from Student Technology Advisory Committee (STAC) will donate to the Department of Art seven Mac computers for use by the department’s students. In addition, ICT will reengineer room 107C into a computer lab that will be equipped with 16 PCs and four Mac computers. The lab and computers will be donated to the Department of Art once the new Jacobs Hall become operational. The Williams Hall lab will be open to students from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday.

• Several employees from ICT attended the annual UC4 Integrate Conference in Savannah, GA. UC4 is a powerful application job scheduling tool that NMSU has been using for 9 years. The conference consisted of representatives from higher
education which collaborated on the use and management of Banner and other software processes with UC4.

- NMSU was asked to host a Higher Ed roundtable this year that was well received. The round table was facilitated by Scott Archer and Liz Archer. The participation and information shared at the round table was invaluable. ICT presented the NMSU Standards Document created during the implementation and has had requests for the document from all over the country as well as from UC4. In addition, NMSU provided guidance to other universities on how to solve problems we had already tackled.

- UC4 is directly attributable to allowing NMSU to do ‘more with less’. It automates enterprise scheduling, accelerates business processes, and simplifies application management. Every time a process is automated, it frees up that clients time and increases NMSU’s efficiency. With the staffing limitations at NMSU, ICT believes we could not manage Banner and our other processing needs without this product. Currently, NMSU is 40 to 50 percent automated so ICT must continue to educate the staff and clients on the benefits of this product. While far below our ultimate automation goal, the attendees discovered that NMSU is ahead of most institutions.

- Dan Bosch, Manager of Enterprise Network Planning, is the latest recipient of ICT’s Golden Scooper award. The award is presented to the ICT staff member who, through course of action, best represents those attributes of recently retired Chief Information Officer, Shaun the “Scooper” Cooper: leadership, fellowship, mentorship, integrity, intelligence, humor, ingenuity, and a knack for mischief. The Golden Scooper recipient, who is selected by the prior holder of the award, Garan Keeler, ICT system administrator.

- Faculty and staff represented New Mexico State University at the New Mexico Technology in Education (NMTIE) conference. NMSU was well represented at this year’s NMTIE conference, with attendees and presenters from the Las Cruces campus as well as the other campuses in the NMSU system. NMTIE’s goal is to improve instruction, research, and administration through the use of technology through collaboration within the educational institutions of the state, from K-12 to higher education.

- This year’s conference included tracks as diverse as implementing new Banner XE product, physical and cyber security and compliance, learning design, networking, cloud services, and innovation in education, such as using games to teach students core math concepts.

- Bob Tacker, the NMTIE Executive Director, recognized conference coordinator Shawna Arroyo of ICT for her outstanding work in organizing the conference.

- In addition to the general attendees from NMSU, the following faculty and staff presented on various topics at this year’s conference:
  - Julia Parra, Curriculum and Instruction
  - Karen Trujillo, Institution For Excellence In Math and Science Education
  - Kerry Forsythe, Instructional Innovation and Quality
  - Robbie Grant, Instructional Innovation and Quality
Facilities and Services

- FS Environmental Health & Safety hosted a special emergency response training and separate EHS Academy two days this past week. The class was filled with 35 students from UTEP EH&S, NMSU EH&S, Chemical Hygiene Officers and Safety Coordinators from NMSU departments in Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Engineering and Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Robert Emery, Vice President for Safety, Health, Environment & Risk Management for the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and Professor of Occupational Health at the University of Texas School of Public Health led the sessions using problem based learning and scenarios based on university operations. Participants were highly engaged and formulated proper response to emergency situations that could occur in a university environment.

- The second day was focused on understanding how universities operate and the needs of faculty, metrics and measures that matter, selling the safety program to increase effectiveness and the compelling display of data to achieve desired decision making.

- October 28th President Carruthers signed a resolution recommended by NMSU Emergency Planning Committee for adoption of the Dona Ana County All Hazard Mitigation Plan. The NMSU Emergency Planning Committee participated in the development of the plan and identified eleven actions and projects that NMSU will perform over the next five years to mitigate natural hazards. The plan is anticipated to be approved by FEMA and details will be communicated widely at that point in time.
• Project Development and Engineering (PD & D) has completed the final inspection of the NMDOT Project at the Grants Campus. The project included drainage swales and structures to keep storm water from migrating onto the campus and damaging infrastructure.

• Project Development and Engineering (PD & E) also provides logistical support when it comes to projects being completed by other departments on campus. PD & E investigated the Construction Industries Division (CID) requirements for the Athletics Department as it related to permitting for the re-surfacing of the tennis courts.

• Work continues to move ahead with the DACC Sunland Park Center, Phase 3 Project. Pictures below show the structural steel recently erected for the new classroom section and welding laboratory and yard.

• Facilities Operations Central Utility Plant personnel recently completed the fabrication and installation of a chemical feed water system. This new system provides Central Plant Operators the ability to remotely monitor chemical levels in
the cooling towers and provides tighter chemical control. This will decrease our chemical usage and should extend the life of the chilled water machines inside the Central Utility Plant.

- Facilities Operations Plumbing shop personnel started well #16 up on 11/12/13 and are running it as our main well. This well has a 500 H/P motor and pumps 3000 gpm of water. We recently had a new chemical room built for the disinfection pumps and tanks that are used to treat our domestic water. We now have two chlorine pumps and two phosphate pumps, this give us the capability of shutting down one pump for repairs and have the other running. We have two 550 gallon tanks that hold our sodium hypochlorite for disinfection and we have a 500 gallon tank for phosphates for treating the water for hardness. If anyone is ever interested in getting a tour in our new well we will be happy to show it off.

Senior Vice President External Relations / Chief of Staff, Ben Woods

- Completed ad hoc tailgate recommendations and sent to the President after review by committee members.
- Held a number of meetings internal to University in an effort to find resolution to the Ag Communications review.
- Sent out invitations to former regents to join us for the unveiling of the Legacy Wall at the December Regents meeting.
- Completed submission of project flow diagram to the State Board of Finance committee reviewing project approval rules and regulations.
- Completed main review and rewrite of the Hotel RFP. Exchanged information with both the City of Las Cruces management as well as management of the Las Cruces Convention Center to coordinate effort.
- Hosted the 2013 Leadership NM Connect Program at our home on Friday evening for a meal.
- Lined up speakers and university representatives for participation in the LCPS Institute for Parental Engagement and the 2013 International Mariachi Conference.

Vice President Student Affairs/Enrollment Management, Dr. Bernadette Montoya

Office of the Vice President, Dr. Bernadette Montoya
- Dr. Bernadette Montoya attended the 2013 Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities Annual Meeting from November 10–12 along with 500 other higher education professionals. The APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization representing 219 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and related organizations.
- Dr. Montoya moderated a presidential panel on strategic planning at the APLU Annual Meeting, and President Garrey Carruthers was a member. They wowed the crowd with their rendition of Kenny Rogers’ “The Gambler” at the end of the panel.
- On November 14, Dr. Montoya attended the NMSU Pioneers Luncheon and serenaded the group with songs.
- Dr. Montoya interviewed with the Las Cruces Sun-News and the Bulletin on November 14 and with the Albuquerque Journal, The RoundUp, KSFR Radio, and KDBC and KVIA television on November 15. Dr. Montoya was on KVIA’s Live at 5 on November 15 as well. The interviews were regarding NMSU’s plans for the Legislative Lottery Scholarship.
- Dr. Montoya had breakfast with the Financial Aid staff on November 15 to discuss Legislative Lottery Scholarship plans and office security measures.

Dr. Bernadette Montoya (left) and President Garrey Carruthers (right) at the 2013 APLU Annual Meeting.

The NMSU Pioneers Luncheon.
University Admissions, Ms. Valerie Pickett

- Undergraduate recruiters visited local high schools and high schools in Tucson, El Paso, and northwest New Mexico. Transfer recruiters met with students at El Paso Community College and Central New Mexico Community College. Graduate recruiters attended college fairs at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students and National Names Exchange Recruitment Fair, both held in Nashville.

- Valerie Pickett, Director, and Delia De Leon, Associate Director, attended the annual American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers Strategic Enrollment Management Conference in Chicago from November 9–14.

- University Admissions hosted campus group visits for prospective students and their families from the New Americas School (Las Cruces) and Riverside High School (El Paso).

University Financial Aid and Scholarship Services, Ms. Janie Merchant

- The Financial Aid Front Desk Staff dealt with increased questions about changes to the New Mexico Legislative Lottery Scholarship. Students especially asked how lottery funding will affect other components of their financial aid package. Students considering leaving NMSU were referred to a Financial Aid Advisor. About 20% of phone calls and foot traffic represent lottery concerns, but this number will likely rise following recent current media coverage. Prospective students have asked about the Lottery Scholarship during campus visits. Both students and parents have expressed relief that NMSU offered a funding solution for the Spring 2014 semester.

- The Las Cruces Financial Aid Fiscal Team recently conducted a training with staff from NMSU Community Colleges regarding Title IV Funding. This training was staff from Doña Ana Community College, NMSU-Carlsbad, NMSU-Alamogordo, and NMSU-Las Cruces.

Student Life, Dr. Michael Jasek

- The Career Exploration Center received positive feedback regarding Kristal Kinzer’s work at the Exploration Center. The Center helped the student choose a different career path since she felt confused about her current career choice.

- WAVE and ASNMSU hosted the first Suicide Prevention Awareness Week from November 4–8. Events covered topics such as depression, veterans and suicide, and suicide in the GLBT community. There was also a Wall of Hope and a suicide prevention training.

- Carol Brown, Assistive Tech Specialist of Student Accessibility Services, attended Accessing Higher Ground in Colorado and Trudy Luken, Director, attended the Governor’s Commission on Disability in Silver City.
On November 6, members from the Greek Community hosted the second Day of Civility. They conduct random acts of kindness throughout campus. On this day, the members of Greek Chapters take a moment and say Thank You to NMSU.

Dr. Michael Jasek spoke to the GLBT community on November 8 about depression, suicide, and the importance of having dialog about mental health issues.

Dr. Jasek gave a presentation bullying to Stonewall Queer-Straight Alliance group, an ally group focused on providing a safe and respectful atmosphere for the GLBT community on and off campus.

Office of Student Diversity and Outreach, Ms. Christina Chavez Kelley

On November 8, Dr. Laura Spencer, Director, and Adan Delval, Student Program Coordinator of Chicano Programs presented “Preparing for College” at Centennial High School. On November 11, Dr. Spencer and Erika Duran of Admissions took students from Las Cruces’ New America High School on an all-day campus visit. On November 12, Chicano Programs, PACE, and the CAMP Program attended New America’s High School Career Fair.

On November 6, Justin McHorse, Director, and Michael Ray, Student Program Coordinator of American Indian Program attended the 2013 Alamo College/Career Fair on the Alamo Navajo Reservation in Alamo, New Mexico. They met with high school students, parents, families, and community members who are interested in pursuing a higher education.

Interim Vice President Economic Development, Dr. Kevin Boberg

Launch Competition

The third round of competitive funding in Arrowhead’s Launch proof of concept program is off to a strong start. At the deadline to submit statements of intent to compete, 17 applications were submitted by NMSU faculty, staff, students, and community members – the previous competition cycle began with seven applicants. Applicants from NMSU’s Colleges of Business; Arts and Sciences; Engineering; and Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences are represented. Applicants also are competing for a $25,000 Launch Proof of Concept investment to accelerate the commercial potential of their discoveries and innovations. The Launch program also provides resources for business mentoring, market analysis, demonstration-validation services, startup venture formation, and access to investment networks.

Las Cruces Startup Weekend

Las Cruces Startup Weekend (http://lascruces.startupweekend.org/) begins on Friday. Event judges include Beto Pallares (President & CEO at Joseph Advisory Services; Arrowhead Innovation Network Investor-in-Residence), Andy Krafsur (Entrepreneur; CEO at Spira Footwear), Carolyn Wincer (Head of Travel & Tourism Development at Virgin Galactic), and Jason LaDere (Co-Founder & CTO at Ziippi). Over 50% of those currently registered to compete are NMSU students. Top winners will receive legal services from NMSU’s intellectual property counsel Peacock Myers, P.C., marketing collateral from event sponsor LNG Company, membership in Arrowhead Technology Incubator, and other prizes. Winners will
also be eligible to compete in a Global Startup Battle event (http://www.globalstartupbattle.co/enter/google) at Google headquarters in San Francisco, CA.

Vice President Research, Dr. Vimal Chaitanya

- Vimal Chaitanya attended the annual Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) meeting in Washington, DC where he also serves on the Council on Research Policy and Graduate Education (CRPGE) Executive Committee.
- Vimal Chaitanya visited the office of Senator Udall and Senator Heinrich with the VPRs of the University of New Mexico and New Mexico Tech.
- Vimal Chaitanya accompanied President Carruthers on his visit to meet with Senator Udall, Senator Heinrich, Congressman Pearce, Congressman Lujan and Congresswoman Lujan-Grisham.
- Vimal Chaitanya visited Algenol in Fort Myers to enhance collaboration in DoE funded algal biofuels research.
- Vimal Chaitanya, Dean Morehead and Associate Dean Jonathan Schwartz visited College of Education at University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando to discuss research programs.
- Peter Cooke had discussions with structural biologist Dr. Chuan Xiao at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to formalize plans for participation in workshops open to NMSU faculty and students in cryo-transmission electron microscopy using facilities at UTEP that are unique in the region.
- The Algal Bioenergy Laboratory welcomed Dr. Rongli Nui on November 11th for a year-long research fellowship. Dr. Nui’s stay at NMSU is funded by a research scholarship from Fujian Province, People’s Republic of China and recent grants to the NMSU Algal Bioenergy Team from the Department of Energy. She will be supervised by Professors Pete Lammers (Office of the Vice President for Research) and Shuguang Deng (Chemical Engineering). Nui will split her time between two projects involving energy efficient algal cultivation and harvesting and algal bio-fuel and bio-product conversion research.
- The following peer-reviewed papers co-authored by Pete Lammers have recently been accepted for publication:
- Pat Hynes is preparing to hold our annual NASA EPSCoR meeting next month for all faculty currently being supported by NASA EPSCoR.
• Steve Hottman and Danny Ball travelled to National Aeronautics and Space Administration Wallops Flight Facility (NASA WFF) for the performance evaluation board presentation this week.

• Questions and answers related to the draft request for proposal (RFP) for Colombia Scientific Balloon Facility (CSBF) were published this week, as well as a revised Statement of Work.

• New work for two Army customers is being proposed; estimated at $3M.

• The week was unusually busy with proposals, especially from the College of Arts and Sciences. All research administrators were pulled from post-award assignments to work exclusively on proposals. Sam Encinias was brought back to OGC as a part-time temporary employee to assist with the heavy workload.

• During this week, Steve Barkes conducted training with the faculty of Geography and Computer Science on the online approval of proposals using the Academic Research and Grants Information System (ARGIS). Testing with pilot departments will begin on Monday, November 18. Depending on the results of the testing, we expect a wider rollout during the first part of 2014.

• State Representative Rudy Martinez, Provost Howard, Vicente Vargas, Ben Woods, and Sam Fernald met to discuss WRRI expansion request in advance of the legislative session.

• Dennis McQuillen and Karl Pennock from the New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau met Sam Fernald and Steve Walker about funding WRRI work on groundwater quality modeling throughout New Mexico.

• Officials of Palomas, Mexico and New Mexico Environment Department met Erin Ward about border issues including community water supplies.

• President Carruthers, Sam Fernald and Phil King met about the upcoming water banking meeting on November 19th and water banking white paper approach.

• Office of the State Engineer hydrologists, lawyers, and Las Cruces field office met with John Utton and Sam Fernald to discuss water banking specifics.

• Sam Fernald, Steve Walker, and Tom Schmugge developed presentations for statewide water budget workshop.

• Sam Fernald answered questions from Governor Martinez’ staff regarding proposed water initiatives. Discussed with the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) the same topic, specifically the statewide water budget, and found areas of intersection for complementary work between OSE and WRRI.

• This week, nearly $2 million of proposals were submitted and about $750,000 of awards were received.

Interim Vice President University Advancement / Foundation Executive Director, Dr. Tina Byford

• The VPUA and Alumni staff met with University Communications to brainstorm ideas for the Aggie Panorama to be released in the Spring.

• Sports Enterprises, Inc. Board held a meeting to transact regular business along with a review of the current marketing sponsorship and financial reports.
- I attended the 2013 NMSU Fall Pioneers luncheon. President Carruthers was the keynote speaker and Bernadette Montoya, VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, provided the entertainment to our group of 80. This group is very important to the University as it represents retired NMSU employees and those employees with 20+ years of service.
- We held our first meeting of the third task force: Development Master Calendar. This task force will be responsible for establishing a procedure to collect event and mailing information. All development officers on campus are invited to attend all task force meetings.
- The Alumni Association set up a meet and greet with Provost Howard during his visit in Lafayette on Nov. 9. The Alumni Association connected alumna Jenny Paulson and a guest with Provost Howard during his visit. Paulson showed Provost Howard a true Louisiana breakfast experience.
- The Alumni Association arranged breakfast with President Carruthers and young alumni in Washington, DC on Nov. 13. Eight young alumni attended.
- Colleen Richardson, Alumni Relations Officer, prepared and presented an overview of the history of NMSU, traditions of NMSU, and the history of the Alumni Association to several student groups on campus. The presentation is used to inform and excite students about the University.
- Kristina Martinez, Regional Advancement Officer, made four face to face visits as well as 25 discovery calls and e-mails. One was a stewardship visit, another was an introductory/stewardship visit, and two were discovery visits. One of the discovery visits resulted in a $500 gift to the 500 for $500 initiative for College of Business. Kristina Martinez also attended the AFP National Philanthropy Day luncheon and submitted an idea for the Price’s Creameries proposal on behalf of TRP – ACES and was also involved with the Master Calendar task force.
- Elaine A. Stachera, University Advancement Officer, had six visits in the San Jose, CA area. These visits fall under the $100k + list. Four were discovery visits, one was a stewardship visit, and one was an ongoing cultivation. All four of the discovery visits were College of Engineering alumni and demonstrated enthusiasm about getting involved with NMSU through volunteer speaking, mentoring, talking to the College about hiring/working with grads, and one had a particular interest in a certain Engineering fund.

**Athletics Director, Dr. McKinley Boston, Jr.**
- Athletic Council, chaired by Kevin Melendrez met to discuss a number of items. Head Softball Coach Kathy Rodolph, Head Baseball Coach Rocky Ward and Head Women’s Tennis Coach Ivan Fernandez gave an update on their programs academically and on the field. I briefed the Council of continuing Division 1 Governance discussions highlighted from the NCAA Board of Directors meeting with a cross section of cohorts in Indianapolis in October. The essence of the discussion is whether to support the 5 Power conferences desire for more authority on spending money for their student-athletes.
• The Sport Enterprises Inc. Board met to discuss the issue of bringing the sales of Aggies Sport Properties in-house as a business model instead of current outsourcing business strategy. Discussions included the financials associated with in-house sales vs. outsourcing.

• Coach Menzies hosted his first coaches’ luncheon of the season at M Five and gave an update on the Hawaii Tournament. There were a number of questions regarding his roster including whether Tanveer Bhullar will redshirt this season or not.

• I was pleased to host the Governor and her family for the UTEP game. She has been invited to attend the home game against University of New Mexico on December 4. She jokingly asked if she should wear a sweater with half of UNM’s colors and the other half with NMSU colors.

Athletic Marketing

• The NM State men’s basketball team won its home opener over rival UTEP, 86-73, in front of more than 10,000 fans at the Pan Am. Of those in attendance, there were 2,378 students counted, the most since the UNM game in 2009 and the second most since 2006.

• The NM State volleyball team won the WAC regular season title for the first time in school history and will play its final home match of the season on Nov. 21.

• The first $250 prize was given to an NMSU student at home men’s basketball games. The program, funded by the Hinkle brothers, will award $250 to an NMSU student in attendance at each home game this season.

• Upcoming promotions aimed at increasing attendance:
  o Men’s basketball against N. Colorado on Wednesday, Nov. 20: bring two canned good items and get a $5 ticket price on upper reserved seats
  o Volleyball on Thursday, Nov. 21: bring a men’s basketball ticket stub and receive $1 admission.
  o Football on Nov. 30: fan and family appreciation day, where all kids 12 and under can receive admission for just $1 and play on the field following the game.

Academics

• Student-athletes (Teresa Conrad: Softball, Amber Olive: Softball and Jodie Williams: Women’s Tennis) were recognized for their academic excellence by receiving the 1A Faculty Athletic Representative Award for the academic year 2012-2013. Criteria:
  o Attended 1A school for at least 2 years.
  o Member of an athletic team.
  o Minimum 3.80 cumulative grade point average.

• The Aggies competed Nov. 2nd at the WAC Championships in Seattle. The women’s team finished fourth and the men’s team finished sixth.

• Volunteer Coach Henry Spillers was recognized by Joseph M. Berning, Ph.D., CSCS, Program Director: Kinesiology & Director: Exercise Physiology Laboratory for his presentation in his Sports Medicine 451 Advanced Exercise Physiology.
Associate Vice President University Communications, Maureen Howard

- For the week of November 4 - November 10, news stories in both local and national media totaled 153 placements. The top story covered by the media this week was the College of Arts & Sciences recognition of Gov. Susana Martinez as a “Star of Arts & Sciences”.
- This week’s Eye on Research in the Las Cruces Sun-News focused on the work of Brian Schutte, assistant professor of weed physiology in the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science, who has used Google Maps not just as a GPS tool, but also to solve logistical problems in his research. This semester, he decided to incorporate a more modern and interactive approach to one of his introductory courses. His idea is to create a pest database, using Google Maps.
- This week’s Sunday feature in the Las Cruces Sun-News highlights the work of biology associate professor Tim Wright who studies the genetic relationship of parrots and vocalization. Professor Wright served as a consultant on the PBS documentary “Parrot Confidential”, which aired nationally on Nov. 13.
- Work continues on updating the Special Production Unit’s HD truck. The project was awarded to Gerling & Associates and the company is beginning the process of building the unit.
- The News/Media Relations team met with Chris Lopez, UTEP associate vice president for university communications, to discuss collaboration on crisis communications.
- The Athletics Media Relations team was busy promoting the men’s basketball game on Nov. 15 against UTEP. The team created a Meet Your Aggie Men’s Basketball Team series, which included daily profiles on each player. They also produced a series of video invites for the website inviting fans to the game. Radio and television appearances were also scheduled.
- Maureen Howard, who represents NMSU on the APLU executive committee of the Strategic Communications Council, attended the annual conference this week. Discussions focused on strategies that advocate the benefits, achievements and contributions of land-grant universities.

Assistant Vice President Government Relations, Ricardo Rel

State-Related Activities

- OGR participated in a teleconference call of the STEM-group, which includes Representative Bill McCamley, NMSU, UNM and other STEM representatives. The STEM group discussed the development of legislation that would appropriate $1 million to a statewide STEM program.
- Representatives McCamley and Martinez were on campus this week for the capital outlay tour. Representative Martinez also had an opportunity to visit with the Provost.

Federal-Related Activities

- Mr. Rel attended the APLU meeting in Washington, D.C. on October 16-19, 2013. I was most impressed with one of the sessions that I attended entitled “Engaging 21st
Century Students: Creating Extraordinary Experiences at Campuses Committed to Access.” The speaker from Georgia State University discussed some of the practices that were implemented at their institution with very positive results. During the trip, I also attended Congressional meetings with the entire delegation with the President and Dr. Chaitanya.

**Director/Secretary New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Jeff M. Witte**

- The 2013 Rounders Award was presented to western writer Johnny D. Boggs and historian and author Don Bullis. The award was created in 1990 by former New Mexico Agriculture Secretary Frank DuBois. It was named after *The Rounders*, a classic western novel written by New Mexico native Max Evans. The award honors those who live, promote, or articulate the Western way of life.
  - Boggs grew up on a farm in South Carolina. His first career was as a sports reporter and later editor; for the last 15 years, he’s concentrated on writing novels and freelance writing. Boggs’ short nonfiction pieces, often accompanied by his photographs, frequently appear in Western publications such as *True West* and *Wild West*. Boggs just released his latest book, *Billy the Kid on Film, 1911-2012*, about the roughly 75 movies made over the years about the state’s most legendary outlaw.
  - Bullis has spent most of his life in New Mexico. In addition to a 20-year career in New Mexico law enforcement, he also worked as a newspaper columnist and editor. Bullis has written two novels and several nonfiction books, including the award-winning *New Mexico Historical Biographies*. His freelance work has appeared in *New Mexico Magazine* among other magazines. Currently, he edits a monthly e-newsletter about New Mexico history and writes a monthly column for *New Mexico Stockman*, a magazine written by, for, and about the state’s livestock community.
  - Max Evans and I were honored to present the award.